



**PATENTS**  
**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

(Attorney Docket No.: 113744.124 (US2))

*JFW*

Applicant: FRANK, John R.  
Serial No.: 10/803,831  
Filing Date: March 18, 2004  
Title: CORPUS CLUSTERING, CONFIDENCE REFINEMENT, AND  
RANKING FOR GEOGRAPHIC TEXT SEARCH AND  
INFORMATION RETRIEVAL  
Examiner: Not Yet Assigned  
Group Art Unit: 2171

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

**CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)**

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA, 22313-1450 on the date set forth below.

Date: September 28, 2004

*Amana Ripley*  
Amana Ripley

**TRANSMITTAL LETTER**

Commissioner:

Enclosed for filing are the following documents:

- 1.) Information Disclosure Statement;
- 2.) Form PTO-1449, including 3 documents; and
- 3.) Return Postcard.

Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in connection with this matter to  
Deposit account No. 08-0219.

Date: September 27, 2004

Respectfully submitted,

*Eric L. Prah*

Eric L. Prah

Reg. No. 32,590

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP  
60 State Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109  
Tel: (617) 526-6043  
Fax: (617) 526-5000



**PATENTS**

**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

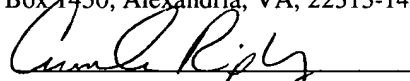
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Amanda Ripley

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT**

Commissioner:

Applicant and their legal representatives hereby make of record on the attached PTO Form-1449 the following publications, which are known to them and considered warranting disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56. Copies of each of these publications are enclosed.

It is respectfully requested that the information above be expressly considered during the prosecution of this application and that the publications be made of record therein and appear among the "References Cited" on any patent to issue therefrom. In this regard, it is requested that the Examiner initial and return a copy of the enclosed Form PTO-1449 with the next Patent Office Communication.

This submission does not represent that a search has been made and does not constitute an admission that the listed documents are material to patentability or that the listed documents are prior art. If it should be determined that any of the listed documents do not constitute

U.S.S.N. 10/803,831  
FRANK, John R.

"prior art" under United States law, Applicants reserve the right to present to the Office the relevant facts and law regarding the appropriate status of such documents.

Applicants further reserve the right to take appropriate action to establish the patentability of the disclosed invention over the listed documents, should one or more of the documents be applied against the claims of the present application.

This Information Disclosure Statement is being filed before the mailing date of a first Office Action on the merits and is therefore submitted as both timely and proper; therefore, no fees are believed to be due.

The Commissioner is also authorized to charge any fees necessary to maintain the pendency of this application to Deposit Account No. 08-0219.

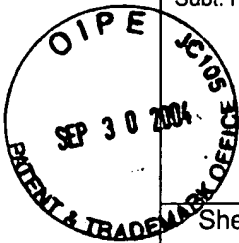
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Date: September 27, 2004



Eric L. Prah  
Registration No. 32,590  
Attorney for Applicant

Wilmer Cutler Pickering Hale and Dorr LLP  
60 State Street  
Boston, Massachusetts 02109  
Tel: (617) 526-6043  
Fax: (617) 526-5000



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|--|---|----|---|--------------------------------|--|----------------------------------|--|
| Subt. Form PTO-1449  |   |    |   | Docket Number<br>113744.124US2 |  | Application Number<br>10/803,831 |  |
| INFORMATION DISCLOSURE<br>IN AN APPLICATION<br><br>(Use several sheets if necessary) |   |    |   | Applicant<br>FRANK             |  |                                  |  |
|  |   |    |   | Filing Date<br>March 18, 2004  |  | Group Art Unit<br>2171           |  |
| Sheet  | 1 | OF | 1 |                                |  |                                  |  |
|  |   |    |   |                                |  |                                  |  |

| U.S. Patent Documents |                    |         |           |       |          |                               |
|-----------------------|--------------------|---------|-----------|-------|----------|-------------------------------|
| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL   | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE    | NAME      | CLASS | SUBCLASS | FILING DATE<br>IF APPROPRIATE |
|                       | US<br>2002/0031269 | 3/14/02 | Fukushima | 382   | 228      |                               |

| Foreign Patent Documents |                    |         |         |       |          |             |    |
|--------------------------|--------------------|---------|---------|-------|----------|-------------|----|
| EXAMINER<br>INITIAL      | DOCUMENT<br>NUMBER | DATE    | COUNTRY | CLASS | SUBCLASS | TRANSLATION |    |
|                          |                    |         |         |       |          | YES         | NO |
|                          | 01/63479           | 8/30/01 | WO      |       |          |             |    |

| Other Documents (Including Author, Title, Date Pertinent Pages, Etc.) |  |  |
|---|--|--|
| A1  | Shaw, W. M. Jr., "Term-Relevance Computations and Perfect Retrieval Performance",<br><i>Information Processing &amp; Management</i> , Vol. 31(4), pp. 491-498 (1995) |  |

|  |                 |
|--|-----------------|
| EXAMINER   | DATE CONSIDERED |
| EXAMINER: Initial if citation is considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP § 609: Draw Line through citation if not conformance and not considered. Include copy with next communication to applicant. |                 |